

house. When thoroughly cooked and thinned out with rice or grapenut it proved very palatable! An Indian's perceptions of a white man's gustatory sensibilities are minus infinity.

Once afloat upon as calm a sea as one could hope for even on the famed Pacific, our way lay among rocks and islets alive with birds. It was hard to pass them by when so many superb pictures were floating about. The good days coming when a portable camera will be able to catch the pictures as the eyes see them—are they near at hand? Now we must be content with scarcely more than suggestions of the most that we see.

Our course lay to the Indian village of La Push, near the mouth of the Quillyute river, past Carroll Islet where the best part of our work was to be done. The story of this "Bird Paradise" will be told later.

THE BIRDS OF POINT PELEE.

BY P. A. TAVERNER AND B. H. SWALES.

(Continued from page 99.)

85. *Coccyzus americanus*.—Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

A common and well distributed species in all wooded sections of the Point. Noted May 13, 1905, to September 10, 1905. Likely later birds have been overlooked, as in the adjoining Michigan territory they remain in limited numbers until the end of the first week of October. During the first three days of September, 1906, both species were unusually abundant, but when we made our second visit from September 15 to the 22d, their numbers were much diminished, and none of this species were noted, and but few of the next. From May 30 to June 1, 1907, cuckoos were remarkably scarce, and the only indication of their presence on the Point was furnished by a small pile of feathers of one of this species that marked the place where one had been eaten by a hawk. During the first few days of the Sharp-shin flights of 1905-6 the cuckoos suffered severely under their depredations and, until the arrival of the Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, seemed to be the staple of their food supply.

86. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*.—Black-billed Cuckoo.

As far as we have been able to judge without carefully looking up every cuckoo noted, the two species are about equally divided in numbers on the Point. If anything the Black-bill is slightly in the minority. We have positively identified none later than September 14, 1905.

87. *Ceryle alcyon*.—Belted Kingfisher.

Fairly common. Very seldom seen over the lake, but we have scarcely ever visited the ponds without seeing one or more. We have met with no indications of their breeding on the Point, but the banks of the dykes near the base offer a congenial-looking habitat.

88. *Dryobates villosus*.—Hairy Woodpecker.

Woodpeckers, as a class, are scarce on the Point; and this particular species is rare. Why this should be so we are unable to surmise. There is plenty of heavy woodland, with a normal amount of dead and dying timber scattered through it, and the comparative absence of this usually common species is one of the interesting phenomena of the locality. Keays noted one September 19, 1901, and we observed one single bird March 9, 1907. It is likely that they would be found more commonly during the winter months.

89. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*.—Northern Downy Woodpecker.

With the exception of the Flicker the Downy is the commonest woodpecker on the Point. It was rare during September, 1905, but at all other times we have noted from one to ten individuals each day.

90. **Sphyrapicus varius*.—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

We have generally missed the height of the migrations of this species at the Point, which occur earlier in the spring and later in the fall than the dates of the majority of our visits. We noted a few May 13-14, 1905, and one the first of the following September. Keays reports it as increasing from two on the 18th to one hundred on the 21st of September, 1901. We saw none during the August-September visit of 1907, but October 14, 1906, we noted eight or ten individuals.

EXTINCT.

Ceophlæus pileatus abieticola.—Northern Pileated Woodpecker.

An old resident, a man of about seventy years of age, informed us that in his boyhood the "Cock of the Woods" was not uncommon, but he had not seen any for a good many years. None of the present shooters remember ever seeing one, so it is likely that the species has been extinct on the Point for something in the neighborhood of thirty years.

91. **Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.—Red-headed Woodpecker.

We have found the Red-headed Woodpecker common on all May trips, but scarce at other times on the Point, though coincidently it was often common on the adjoining mainland. In September of 1905, we saw but one bird, on the 6th. During the same month of the two succeeding years they were more numerous and we saw one or more several times during each visit. Our latest date is October 14, 1906, when one was observed. None were seen in March, 1907.

92. **Colaptes auratus luteus*.—Northern Flicker.

Not common during our May dates. Those seen then likely represent the breeding population. One seen March 9, 1907. During September it has always been one of the most abundant birds of the Point. Keays reports a flight in 1901 when he noted four hundred September 21.

The Sharp-shin flights discommoded this species less than any other species of small birds. The Flickers never resorted to concealment of any kind as other birds did, but frequented the most conspicuous places in the dead trees, from whence they shrieked their loudest, as is their wont. Though at times they seemed uneasy and restless, they were perfectly able to take care of themselves and easily made their escape when attacked. On the other hand the hawks seemed aware of the futility of successful pursuit, and after a few half-hearted dashes usually desisted. The usual course of procedure of the Flicker, when attacked by a hawk, was to wait until the last minute, when the hawk, in its swoop, was just about to seize its victim, and then dodge quickly to the other side of the limb. In every case observed the ruse worked perfectly, and we found only once the feather remains which proved that once in a while the hawk was a little too quick for the Flicker.

93. **Antrostomus carolinensis*.—Chuck-wills-widow.

The capture of this bird, May 21, 1906, by Fleming, in the red cedar thickets near the end of the Point, forms one of the most interesting records for Pelee and one that is unique in Great Lakes Ornithology. The bird was flushed from near the roadside at the feet of Fleming and Swales, and lit again in full view of them both and calmly waited for them to warn Taverner out of the line of fire and then collect it in due form. The bird was a male and forms the first Canadian record of the species. See Auk, XXIII, 1906, 343.

94. **Antrostomus vociferus*.—Whip-poor-will.

A common bird. We have always heard one or more during the May nights, while in camp in the red cedar thickets, when they would repeat their plaintive refrain until early in the morning. In our various September visits we have usually found them more or less common, but at that season they are much quieter, and seldom do more than call a few times in the early evening and then cease. Sometimes one will be heard again through the night, but more often not. September, 1905, beginning the 4th, we saw from one to six until the 13th, when a great flight of them appeared on the Point. That day, in the red cedar thickets near the extremity of the Point, we flushed thirty between twelve and half-past one in the afternoon. They all left that night, as the next day, on the same ground, we were able to put up but three.

One evening, just as the dusk was darkening into night, a Whip-poor-will was heard near the camp. We stole out, and the bird was located in a large bare walnut tree in the open bush where, looking up against the still faintly illuminated sky, it could be plainly made out, sitting lengthwise, as is their fashion, on a rather large and almost horizontal branch. It remained perfectly motionless except for an occasional jerk of its white blotched tail, when it gave vent intermittently to a guttural "gluck." These notes were repeated at irregular intervals of perhaps half a minute, several times and then, without start or warning, it launched away into the air, starting off immediately at full speed, with a drop that carried it in a large, even circle half way to the ground, and then up on the same curve, to vanish in the gloom of the trees. Then it appeared on the other side, swinging down on fixed wings in great elliptical curves as though whirled from the end of a cord, perfectly silent in flight and threading the dusky mazes of the tree tops with the utmost confidence and precision. Here and there it rapidly wheeled, without an apparent stroke of the wing, now coming into view in the lower arc of its great circling, and then vanishing silently again on the upward sweep on the other side. As suddenly as it started, it ceased in the middle of a swing and, while the eyes vainly searched for the dark object along the continuation of its course, it was seated again on the branch from which it first sprang, silent and still. This was repeated several times, and then it was joined by another, and the two circled about like great soft, gliding bats until the sky above grew so dark that their movements could no longer be watched.

The latest date we have for the species is October 14, 1906, when one was seen. During the August-September trip of 1907 but one bird was noted, straggling along after a bunch of Nighthawks that were making their way out the Point on their southern migration.

95. **Chordeiles virginianus*.—Nighthawk.

Common on all spring visits, but in the fall it is only the stragglers that are seen after September 1. In 1905 we saw one solitary bird, September 8, and another the 12th. In 1906 a few were seen September 1-3, and another single the 18th. All the early fall migrants of 1907 were a little late, and this species was observed commonly passing southward every day until August 27, when they gradually thinned out and the last was noted the 6th of September. Very few seem to do much feeding when passing along the Point on their southward migration; all then seen are steadily winging their way straight south and but occasionally making the briefest side excursion for passing insects.

96. *Chætura pelagica*.—Chimney Swift.

Common on all trips except those of October and March. Septem-

ber 15 to 22, 1906, they were scarcer than usual and the ten seen on the 19th were doubtless the last of the main body of migrants, as this is our latest date.

97. **Trochilus colubris*.—Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Common on all May dates and, in the fall, to September 21, 1906, the latest date in that month that we have been on the Point. The first three days of September in 1906 were notable for the vast numbers of Hummers present. In certain low slashings in the open woods were luxuriant growths of Jewel Weed (*Impatiens* sp?) standing nearly shoulder high and so dense that to enter it one had to force his way through. It was simply spangled with blossoms, and all about and over it hovered and darted hundreds of Hummingbirds. From some little distance, as we approached such clumps, we were aware of innumerable little twitterings that followed each other so rapidly as to scarce be separable, one from another, and so fine, sharp, and high in pitch that it took a little effort to realize that it was real sound and not imagination or a ringing in the ears. Underlying this was a low hum that arose from the vibrations of many little wings. Approaching closer, the pugnacious little mites were all about us, chasing each other over the smooth rounded surface of the jewel weed or darting angrily at us from this side or that, with furious chatterings that made one instinctively cover the eyes, or involuntarily flinch at the expected impact of their sharp, rapier-like, little bills. If a Hummingbird were larger and still retained its same aggressive spirit in proportion to its increased size, it would be positively dangerous to stray into its haunts. As it is, such concentrated wrath wrapped up in so small and impotent a body, tempts one to coin a new simile for futile rage and say, "As mad as an angry hummingbird"; and strongly recalls Beethoven's composition, "Wrath at the Loss of a Penny." On remaining perfectly still for a few moments the turmoil resultant upon our intrusion subsided, and the disturbed proprietors of the place went about their business and their pleasure regarding us no more than any other fixture of the landscape or the trees and stumps about them. Some sat preening their feathers on a twig of a bare branch that projected through the green mass, or, on a high spray of the jewel weed itself, passing their wings through their delicate mandibles and scraping off infinitesimal particles of dust. Others busied themselves about the flowers that blossomed in such profusion, probing every cup to see whether or not some drop of nectar had not been left by previous explorers. Often two would rise over opposite sides of an obstructing mass of vegetation and meet face to face at the top. Then they would dash towards each other, squeaking and bridding with rage, but just before the final collision and when but a foot or so apart, they would both rise in the air vertically, their bodies hanging straight up and

down, their wings a blurry film on either side, and their voices squeaking defiance as they faced each other and rose, sometimes to the height of the tree tops, and once we watched a couple pass completely out of sight over our heads. Then, as if by common consent, they would drop to earth again, and seek different parts of the weed. This was repeated over and over again and sometimes by the same individuals. Each time there was the same angry dash, the same cross recrimination and the same mutual retreat. Sometimes there would be several such balanced couples in the air at one time, and we saw the action repeated many times in a few minutes. They quarreled interminably, and whenever two met, whether they soared or not, there was a furious succession of little squeaks, blending together into a sort of little song, something like this,—“*tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc tsc*.” The groups of squeaks ran into each other so that it sounded almost like a sustained note and, as the groups varied a little in pitch, it made a not unpleasant suggestion of a song.

All these birds were juveniles. Swales noted but one with the ruby throat, and Taverner one with but a single metallic feather set like a gem in its gorget.

The succeeding May we had another interesting experience with a Hummingbird that was much aggrieved at our presence at his particular spot. He flew towards us, scolding with vigor, his ruby throat gleaming in the sun. When but a few feet away, and directly facing us, it paused, and swung back and forth across our path, along an arc of a circle as if swung on the arm of a long invisible pendulum. The amplitude of the swing was about twenty feet and each beat was regularly timed and seemed to be beating seconds. For about half a minute he kept it up and then dashed away and disappeared over the bush tops.

The last of August and the first of September, 1907, saw no such numbers of Hummers as described above. The early migrants were late in starting this season, and it was not until September 23, the last day of our stay, that there was any indication of numbers of migrants. Up to then we had seen but one or two each day, running up to five August 27. The last day, however, in the early morning, fifty were observed. There were no such growths of jewel weed as were seen the fall before, even in the places where it then grew so luxuriantly, and but little patches of it here and there reminded us of last year's glories. What Hummers we did see were about these little clumps.

Keays noted that in 1901 the Hummingbird was the only species that did not turn back when, in migrating out the Point, it reached the end. We verified this many times. The final end of the Point stretches out for a couple of hundred rods, in the form of a long, low, more or less winding and attenuated sand spit. Stationed about half

way out on this, it was most amusing to watch the little mites come buzzing over the last of the red-cedar bushes and then drop down towards the ground and, without pause or hesitation, follow every winding of the ever-changing sand to its extreme end, and then, with a sudden and resolute turn, square away for Pelee Island, just visible on the horizon. Dr. Jones was stationed on the opposite islands from August 26 to September 2, 1905, and makes the following statement as to the movements of the species over the waters of the lake: "Hummingbirds were passing during the daylight, and all those noted were flying very low. In fact they dropped down between the waves for protection from the wind, which was quartering, or at right angles to their line of flight and seemed to disturb them. I noticed that in the strong westerly wind, all birds headed southwest, but always drifted south."

98. **Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Kingbird.

Common on all May visits. In September, 1905, the bulk of the species had left when we arrived on the 3d, and we saw but two the next, and one each on the two succeeding days. The next year, September 1, we saw a little flock of about twenty on the mainland during our ride out to the Point, and four more on the return trip on the 4th, but none were noted on the Point itself at that time. On our return on the 15th of the same month all had gone. In 1907, when we arrived August 24, Kingbirds were very common and distributed all over the Point and the adjoining mainland. Each day brought more, until by the 27th there were a greater number of Kingbirds present than any of us had ever seen at one time before. Most of them were in the waste clearings near the end of the Point, where at times we saw flocks numbering hundreds of individuals. The dead trees scattered about the edges of these clearings were at all times more or less filled with them and it was no uncommon sight to see from fifteen to twenty in one small tree. The 29th saw the culmination of the flight, and when we went out in the morning of the 30th we found that the bulk of the kingbirds had left, and we saw but a few scattered individuals, where the day before there were hundreds. They kept steadily diminishing in numbers until September 5, when we saw none and decided that the last had left, but the next morning, before we broke camp, we saw two in the fields near one of the farm houses. Likely these were the last stragglers.

99. **Myiarchus crinitus*.—Crested Flycatcher.

On nearly all visits, except those of early spring (March) and late fall (October), we have found the Crested Flycatcher fairly common. The bulk seems to leave before the middle of September. Our latest record is September 15, 1906, though Keays lists one as late as the 19th, 1901.

100. **Sayornis phæbe*.—Phæbe.

Regular but not very common. We have never been able to recognize any decided migrational augmentation of their numbers and likely the few that we have seen on most of our trips represent the resident summer population. The greatest number we have ever noted one day was eight, October 14, 1906. Usually we do not see more than one or two, and these not every day, and usually close to one vicinity, in the neighborhood of some of the farm buildings. They are likely members of the same family, seen repeatedly. Our latest date is the above, October 14, which likely falls within the season of their migrational movement along the Point.

101. **Nuttallornis borealis*.—Olive-sided Flycatcher.

This is by no means a common flycatcher in this vicinity, nor was it noted at the Point until the fall of 1906, when one, two, and one were noted September 1, 2 and 3 respectively, and one taken the 2d. On the last day of our return trip, September 22, during our drive in, another was seen before we left the Point, on the topmost tip of a dead tree. An attempt was made to collect it, but without success. May 31, 1907, another was secured along the cross-road near camp and the same fall six in all were noted or taken August 26 and 29.

The Olive-sided is the most wary of our flycatchers. Sitting on the tip-top of some dead tree, well out in the open, it can study the ground for some distance about and allows nothing suspicious to approach too closely. Usually quiet and undemonstrative, it will once in a while launch out after some passing insect and then return again to the same perch. So situated, it presents the general appearance of a dark colored kingbird; but the dark blotches of the sides stand out prominently in contrast with the light colored center breast line and will identify it without fail as soon as a moderately good view is obtained. Under the wing, on each side of the back, and usually under the secondaries when the wing is folded are patches of almost pure white downy plumage, with a peculiar silky sheen. At times these are thrown over the folded wings forming flaring white patches against the dull olive background of the rest of the body, making a most distinctive and striking field mark. This species becomes very much attached to certain perches and can be found repeatedly day after day doing vidette duty on such favored stations. There are two or three trees on the Point that were so occupied in the fall of 1906 and again in 1907, and when one of the occupants was shot it was only a little while before another was seen in the same place. These were by no means the only perches of the kind in the neighborhood. There were many others standing well out in the open, and to human eyes just as suitable as those chosen, but which we never saw occupied. When disturbed from one station they will

fly to another, and when two or more are discovered a bird can be kept flying back and forth from one to the other many times. Their voice is loud and noisy and their "O-whe-o" can be very easily mistaken for the like call of the Crested Flycatcher before one is familiar with it.

102. **Horizopus virens*.—Wood Pewee.

Common in the spring and very abundant in the early days of fall. It is evident that the first fall movement of this species begins early in the season. The 24th of August, 1907, we found the woods of the Point already in possession of innumerable hosts of Wood Pewees, and through early September we have always found them the most prominent bird in the landscape. Their voices can be heard any hour of the day uttering their pathetically plaintive note; and often in the night, as we have lain awake in the tent, some Pewee has aroused itself and a long drawn "pewee" has punctuated the darkness with its soft sweetness. In 1905 it remained common until September 9, when the bulk departed, but a number were noted until we left, the 14th. In 1906 the numbers gradually decreased after September 16, but some numbers were still present at the time of our departure, the 22d. In 1907 it was common from the time we arrived, August 24, to the break of camp, September 6.

103. **Empidonax flaviventris*.—Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

We have noticed this bird in the spring but once, May 30 and 31, 1907, but in the fall we have always found it common. In 1905 it was first noted September 4th and was present in large numbers the 9th, after which it decreased to the 13th, when we left. At the time of its greatest abundance it successfully disputed with the Least Flycatcher for the first place in point of numbers. The next fall (1906) they were not quite as common, but September 1 to 3, and 15 to 22, we daily saw several. In 1907, from August 24 to September 6, they were at all times more or less common. Their numbers culminated August 29, when they became abundant, but slowly decreased the succeeding days. This species seems to start on its southward migration about the middle of August, but others come in before the earlier arrivals leave, and many linger until well into September.

104. *Empidonax trailii alnorum*.—Alder Flycatcher.

Not a common bird, but regular. It may be much more common than our notes seem to indicate, for the small flycatchers are difficult to separate without a certain amount of concentration of observation on each individual bird, and this species, without any strong characteristic, may very well be overlooked when the bushes are full of other small flycatchers and the attention is absorbed in looking for other species.

We have noted five, May 14, 1905; two, September 2, 1906, and ten,

August 29, 1907. These latter had been noted for several days in the same spot, and going over the next day with the purpose of taking recording specimens, we found them all gone. Though no specimens have been taken, Mr. Brewster has examined series from the surrounding localities, London, Ontario; Detroit, Michigan; and Oberlin, Ohio; and has pronounced them of this sub-specific form.

105. **Empidonax minimus*.—Least Flycatcher.

One of the most abundant Flycatchers. We have found it common on all our May visits, and in September, until shortly after the middle of the month. In 1905 their numbers culminated the 9th, but there were still a few when we left the 14th. In 1906 they were common during the first three days of September, but were gone by the time of our return trip, the 15th. In 1907 we did not notice any for the first two days, but the 26th of August they commenced arriving, and by the 28th and 29th were very common. After this they gradually decreased, though they were still not uncommon when we left the 6th of September. Our latest fall date is September 14, 1905.

106. **Otocoris alpestris praticola*.—Prairie Horned Lark.

Prairie Horned Larks are usually to be found along the east beach and in the waste clearings near the end of the Point near the shore. We have noted a few on each visit, but found them especially in March and October. Specimens taken March 9, 1907, were evidently breeding or preparing to do so. From the reports of Jones on the Ohio shore, directly opposite, and Saunders, of Rondcau, a few miles east along the Ontario shore, we expect that both *O. a. alpestris* and *O. a. hoyti* will eventually be found here in the winter, but as yet we have received no specimens to verify our expectations.

107. **Cyanocitta cristata*.—Blue Jay.

We have found the Blue Jay common at all times, but more abundant in fall than spring. During the hawk flights of 1905 and 1906 they were much harassed by the Sharp-shins but, as they are perfectly able to take care of themselves and kept pretty close in the grape vine tangles, it is not probable that they suffered much, unless it was from the nervous strain of being continually on the outlook. But who ever saw a Blue Jay suffer from nervousness? In fact once within the shrubbery, they seemed to rather enjoy the situation, and from their safe retreats hurled joyous epithets at their baffled enemies. Saunders also notes the ability of the Jay to keep a whole skin against the hawks, and we have only once found the remains of a hawk-devoured bird of this species.

October 14, 1906, we noticed a very interesting migration across the lake. All morning long we saw large flocks passing out the Point. In the afternoon we followed them to the end and, though most then had passed, we witnessed one small bunch of perhaps fifty

birds essay the passage. The day was fine and clear and but very little wind blowing, but when they came out to the end of the trees they turned back and sought a large tree-top, where they settled to talk the matter over at the top of their voices. Then, reassured, they started out, rising above gun shot from the ground and making for the Ohio shore, not for Pelee Island as we supposed they would. When they got far enough out to see the blue water under them they slowed up, and when we waved our hats and shouted at them a few wavered, paused and then fled back to the shore to their tree again, followed a moment later by the whole flock. Another pow-wow was held and again they started, with great determination and seemingly filled with the motto, "Ohio or bust." This time they had hardly got well out over the lake when a Sharp-shin was discerned far in the distance, but it was enough to again send them shrieking back to their oak tree. This time the consultation lasted a little longer than before, but at last the coast seemed clear and they started once more. Again, as they drew over the water, they slightly paused as though doubtful, but no one shouted, there was not a hawk in sight and, as there was no possible excuse for backing out this time, they kept slowly and gingerly on until well started and away from land, when they settled into their pace and, when lost sight of in our glasses, were continuing on their way in a straight line that would carry them several miles to the east of Pelee Island.

EXTINCT.

Corvus corax principalis.—Northern Raven.

One of the older residents tells us that in his boyhood the Raven was well known on the Point, but the last one was seen there so long ago that he could give no information as to the date.

108. **Corvus brachyrhynchos*.—American Crow.

Common, though as but few nests are to be found when the trees are bare of leaves it is not likely that many breed on the Point itself. A few are always to be found along the beaches picking up dead fish and other food stuffs that are washed ashore. October 14-15, 1906, they had congregated in large flocks and were constantly passing up and down the Point, from the end of which we watched them gathering in the final trees and acting much as did the Jays as before described preparatory to crossing the lake.

109. **Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.—Bobolink.

Common in the cultivated fields on all May trips. In the fall they leave during the first half of September. During later August and early September they frequent the marshes in large flocks and are to be found in the early mornings in the corn fields or flying over in large compact bodies towards the end of the Point and from thence across the lake. At this season, from sunrise to about ten o'clock,

there is a steady stream of Blackbirds and Bobolinks, all making in the same direction. When they reach the end of the land they do not hesitate as do the Jays but, unless threatened by real danger from hawks or other enemies, continue their flight unhesitatingly from the time they leave their marshy roosting-grounds till they reach the other shore. When we have seen them they, too, have always taken a course that would take them some distance to the east of Pelee Island, and apparently they cross the lake at one sustained flight and do not follow the island stepping stones across.

In 1905 flocks of about one hundred and twenty-five were seen September 5, and a few more the morning of the 7th. In 1906 flocks of several hundreds each were seen September 16-18, and we found them very abundant August 24 when we arrived in 1907. They reached their maximum of abundance the 27th, after which they decreased, though, when we left September 6, there were still a few to be seen. Our latest date is September 18, 1906.

110. *Molothrus ater*.—Cowbird.

The Cowbird has been common on all visits except that of March 9 and 10, 1907. Through the first of September they are to be seen making the early morning start for across the lake with the other blackbirds and the Bobolinks. There were great numbers October 29, 1905.

111. *Agelaius phoeniceus*.—Red-winged Blackbird.

A common breeder on the marshes. It was still common October 29, 1905, in mixed flocks with other blackbirds and was present in immense numbers October 14-15, 1906, when the morning migrations were especially heavy. Gardner wrote us several times during the winter of 1906-07 that fifty or so were wintering on the Point and we found a number present March 9-10 the following spring when the lake and marshes were still completely ice-bound.

113. *Sturnella magna*.—Meadowlark.

The Meadowlark is fairly common on the Point in the cultivated sections in the spring, but it is rare to see any in the fall on the Point proper, though at the same time they are usually almost abundant on the adjoining mainland. Keays reports seeing several September 19, 1901, and one was noted September 13, 1905, and several the following October 29 along the eastern sand dune. According to Gardner, a few remained all the winter of 1906-07 on the frozen marshes.

114. *Icterus spurius*.—Orchard Oriole.

It was rather a treat to us to find this beautiful species abundant on our first visit, May 13-14, 1905, and we have found them equally so on all subsequent May trips. They are, in fact, one of the com-

monest species on the Point, outnumbering the Baltimore perhaps two to one. One or more are seldom out of hearing, and their voice is always pleasant to the ear, while their forms, in all their various plumages, can be seen darting away through the trees on either hand the whole length of the Point as we follow along the road. The farmers are well acquainted with both the orioles and call this species the "Oriole," while the Baltimore is generally known as the "Golden Robin." The fruit growers of the neighborhood regard them as rather injurious to their small fruit, because they puncture large numbers of hanging grapes. Though they were as numerous as usual as late in the season as June 1, 1907, we do not think that many individuals regularly breed on the Point, as very few nests, either new or old, have been observed in late fall when such objects are very conspicuous.

The Orchard Oriole leaves in the fall a little earlier than the Baltimore. In 1905 none were present September 3. When we arrived September 1, the following year, they had likewise left, though the Baltimore was still common. In 1907 we saw two, August 26, which forms our latest date.

115. *Icterus galbula*.—Baltimore Oriole.

One of the commonest birds of the Point. His brilliant livery can be continually seen flashing from tree to tree, while his full rich voice makes the fine spring air melodious. They have been more than common on all spring visits and in all September trips, except that of 1905, when they seemed to have left a little earlier than usual. September 1 to 3, 1906, they were quite common and singing daily. One of these days we heard a little fragmentary song from one that was unlike anything we had ever heard before. Had either of us been musicians we could have imitated it perfectly. It sounded so human that at first we thought it was a boy whistling, having the same quality and timbre. It was as if some one was absent-mindedly whistling the fragments of an air, with many breaks and missing notes, as if busy with other thoughts. It was very pretty, indeed, and we suppose that it was uttered by the young male, though we could not make out this point for a certainty. We heard the almost full spring song several times. When we returned to the Point the 15th the Orioles had all gone. The fall of 1907 we saw several each day until September 2, when the last one was noted. Keays lists the species as late as September 20 in 1901. This must be regarded, however, as an exceptionally late date.

116. *Euphagus carolinus*.—Rusty Blackbird.

As is to be expected, the Rusty Blackbird is but a migrant at the Point. We have met it in flocks October 29, 1905, and the 14th and 15th of the same month in 1906. If it was present March 9 and 10,

1907, we failed to make it out among the flocks of other blackbirds seen then.

117. *Quiscalus quiscula uineus*.—Bronzed Grackle.

Found commonly on nearly all visits. There were fewer September 4 to 15, 1905, than usual, but October 14 to 15, 1906, they were in great flocks and, in the early morning, when the flocks passed over towards the end of the Point, all squeaking together, they made considerable din. Gardner reports that a few remained all the winter of 1906-7, and when we arrived March 9 a few were seen. There were large flocks present when we arrived August 24, 1907, and they remained without perceptible change in numbers to when we left September 6.

118. *Hesperiphona vespertina*.—Evening Grosbeak.

March 9, 1907, Mr. Wilkinson, of Leamington, who drove us out to the Point, told us of a number of birds he had seen a short time before that tallied so well with the descriptions of this bird that there could hardly be any doubt as to what he meant. When we got out to Gardner's he told us substantially the same thing and described them as "about the size of a robin and yellow and black, and the hen birds were a sort of grayish." He had seen them about a mile from his place, along the road, about the first of March. A number of them were killed by boys, but we were unable to get sight of any specimens or their remains. While there we hunted carefully for them in hopes that some might still remain, but without avail.

119. *Carpodacus purpureus*.—Purple Finch.

In comparison with our Detroit dates in fall this species arrives at the Point very early. October 29, 1905, about eight birds were seen, but none during the September visit. In 1906 five were seen or taken September 17, and at least thirty the 19th. Their numbers dropped suddenly then to three and one the next two succeeding days. October 14 there were great numbers and flocks of from five to a dozen were met with continually all over the wooded sections of the Point. All were either full red birds or else olive colored; none observed were in mixed or transition plumage. The dull olive colored birds sang constantly, but the red ones never. Their songs were considerably varied, but the most characteristic might be rendered, "Pe-a-we—to-te-te-to."

In 1907, W. E. Sanders saw one in the red cedar at the extreme end of the Point, August 28. This was a most unusually early bird.

120. *Loria leucoptera*.—White-winged Crossbill.

November 14, 1907, we received a box of birds from friends on the Point. Among them was one White-winged Crossbill. On skinning it no marks of violence could be found and it was most likely picked up dead. It was quite fresh and could not have been dead more

than a few days. Asking Gardner about the species later, he said that about that time he noticed considerable flocks of small red birds that he was unacquainted with on the Point. The White-winged Crossbill is a much rarer visitor in this section than its relative the American. See Auk, XXIV, 1907, p. 145.

121. *Astragalinus tristis*.—American Goldfinch.

Seen without exception every day we have been on the Point. Less common in late fall and early spring than at other times. October 29, 1905, but one was noted, though on the 14th and 15th of the same month in 1906, they were common. March 9-10, 1907, we noted several, and three on the successive days. At all other times it has been common.

HYPOTHETICAL.

Spinus pinus.—Pine Siskin.

March 10, 1907, we saw two or three finches that we were quite certain were Pines, but as we failed to collect them and the light was very poor for glass work, we could not be absolutely certain of our identification. The following June 1st Saunders reported hearing two on the inner edge of the woods that fringe the east shore beyond the crossroad. Mr. Saunders is quite certain of his identification, and as this was a most peculiar spring, with all the migrations more or less disorganized, we accept even this late record without any very great mental reservation.

INTRODUCED.

Passer domesticus.—House Sparrow.

Point Pelee is no more free from this "Undesirable citizen" than the adjoining territory. Fortunately for the Point, it is not abundant far from towns, but there is always a fair-sized flock to each group of farm buildings.

122. **Passerina nivalis*.—Snowflake.

Of course the Snowflake is but a winter migrant on the Point. October 29, 1905, we found a few on top of the eastern sand dune along the lake shore the whole length of the Point. They did not occur in large flocks, but in singles and pairs scattered along here and there. Through the winter of 1906-07 Gardner reported large flocks of them on the marshes, but when we arrived there March 9 he told us that he had seen the last about a week previous.

123. **Poæcetes gramineus*.—Vesper Sparrow.

Not a uniformly distributed bird, but locally common, more especially late in the fall (October). They are usually common in the weedy corners of the waste fields near the end of the Point; and here, and in like places, we have always been able to find them on all visits except that of March 9 and 10, 1907, which was, of course,

too early. September 1 to 3, 1906, they were unusually abundant for this time of the year. October 29, 1905, they were still common and more uniformly distributed than we have seen them at other times.

124. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*.—Savanna Sparrow.

A common migrant, and likely a sparse breeder, as it nests more or less commonly along the Canadian side of the St. Clair Flats and, to a lesser extent, in the neighboring territory of Michigan. It is most commonly found along the top of the dunes of the east shore where, May 13, 1905, and again September 11 and 12 of the same year, we found a number. October 29, none were seen, though the whole of the east shore was tramped over, and they had evidently left. In 1906, we saw none in May or during the first three days of September; but in neither of these visits was much attention paid to the east shore where they were most likely to be found. On the return visit, from the 15th to the 22d of September, the species was present on its accustomed grounds and we found them in great numbers distributed all over the marsh the 19th. October 15 they were still common. None were noted in 1907 on any of our visits, May 30 to June 1, and August 24 to September 6. During the latter trip, however, we did not work the marshes and, though we did not find them about its edges as usual, we are unable to state that they were not in its interior.

125. *Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*.—Grasshopper Sparrow.

Some years ago this species was more common and of more general distribution in this locality than it is now. Personally we have not met with it on the Point, though we have found a few pairs scattered over the fields in the neighborhood of Amhurstburg, at the mouth of the Detroit River. Saunders says (Auk iv, 1887, p. 248). "The Grasshopper Sparrow breeds in Southwestern Ontario, where I have found it in different localities, notably at Pt. Pelee, where I heard it singing in early June and was comparatively common. . . . In June, 1884, there were numbers of pairs breeding in the cultivated meadows and fields." The status of the bird has certainly changed since the above observations were made, together with that of two other species of somewhat like habitat, namely, the Lark Sparrow and the Dickcissel, of which more under their respective headings. We have looked diligently for the Grasshopper Sparrow in all likely places and it is not probable that it has been overlooked.

126. *Anmodramus henslowii*.—Henslow's Sparrow.

May 24, 1906, Saunders saw and heard several near the east base of the Point, in the damp meadows bordering the marsh. May 30, 1907, in going over the same grounds we listened and looked carefully for them, but either it was during one of their periods of silence, such as the species is given to, or else they were not there this

season, for we discovered no indication of their presence. Their usual "se-silick" note, though unobtrusive in volume or pitch, has great carrying power; and is too distinctive not to be heard or recognized when the observer is acquainted with it and is listening for it.

127. *Chondestes grammacus*.—Lark Sparrow.

The Lark Sparrow seems to be another species that has retreated from its range of late years in this section and the adjoining parts of Michigan. Saunders found some numbers of them on the Point in 1884, and again May 14, 1905, he saw two in the cultivated fields by the roadside. Though we have looked carefully for the species since, we have not been able to locate it.

128. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.—White-crowned Sparrow.

May 13, 1905, this fine sparrow was very common all over the Point, but especially so about the clumps of cottonwood along the east beach, where it was the commonest of the land birds there present. We met the species again October 14-15, 1906, but other visits have been either too early or too late to catch it on its migrations on the Point.

129. *Zonotrichia albicollis*.—White-throated Sparrow.

A common and regular migrant. May 13 and 14, 1905, four and one were seen on their respective days, but on neither of the trips of May 21 or 30 of the two succeeding years were any noted. In the fall of 1905 a few were noted, beginning September 14, and the next year ten were observed the 15th of the same month and were still common October 14 and 15, when we made the last trip of the year. Our latest date on the Point in 1907 was September 6, but none put in an appearance before we left.

130. *Spizella monticola*.—Tree Sparrow.

A common and regular migrant and, if we can judge from reports, it must winter in considerable numbers, as during the winter of 1906-07 Gardner spoke repeatedly of seeing large numbers of "Bush Sparrows." March 9-10, 1907, we saw large flocks in the weedy edges of the fields. The day was cold and bleak, and the chorus of the combined flocks made a very cheering sound, when such cheer was welcome indeed.

131. *Spizella socialis*.—Chipping Sparrow.

On all May and September dates the Chipping Sparrow has been more than common. It frequents the road side mostly, and whether that runs through cultivated fields, pine groves or red cedar thickets, the Chipping Sparrow is invariably to be found in numbers along its length. In point of numbers it must out-rank those of all the other sparrows combined. It was common October 14-15, 1906, and even as late as October 29, 1905, it was present in some numbers.

This latter is a very late date for the species, judging by our experience in the adjoining sections of Michigan, where they usually have all disappeared by the middle of the month.

132. *Spizella pusilla*.—Field Sparrow.

Common on all May visits. In the fall the species is rather local in its distribution, but is very partial to the weedy spots in the waste clearings near the end of the Point. Until the fall of 1907 we pretty generally overlooked this species in the autumn until the secret of its distribution was discovered, when we daily found it common from August 24 to September 6, when we left. Our latest date is October 13, 1906.

133. *Junco hyemalis*.—Slate-colored Junco.

A regular and common migrant. On our earliest visit, March 9, 1907, there were several present, and May 13, 1905, we noted one solitary late bird. We have no other spring records. In September, 1906, the first was noted the 17th, and two days later four more. They were abundant the following October 14-15, and the 29th, in 1905. Keays noted their first arrival September 18, in 1901. In his letters Gardner described the bird very well and reported its presence at various times during the winter of 1906-07.

134. *Melospiza cinerea melodia*.—Song Sparrow.

Not as common as would naturally be expected. While present during all visits except that of March 9, 1907, it never seems to be a prominent bird in the landscape. This was especially true May 20-21 when, until its scarcity was noticed and we commenced a special search for it, it nearly escaped our observation. It has been much commoner during the late October trips than at any other time.

135. *Melospiza lincolni*.—Lincoln's Sparrow.

May 14, 1905, two were met with in a brush pile in a slashing but, as usual with the species, when the birds were in sight they were too close to shoot, and when at a sufficient distance to collect nicely they were not to be seen. This species is one of the most persistent skulkers that we have. They frequent dense brushy masses and, when collectors are around, generally keep to their deepest recesses. Usually, however, when approached, they will hop to some commanding position and view the intruder for an instant. Then, if the observer is bent on taking specimens, is the time to shoot, but it must be done instantly, for the next second the bird will be gone deep in the tangle, and it is rarely seen again. On the other hand, though difficult to shoot, it is one of the easiest birds to trap, and does not seem to have the least suspicion that strange combinations of sticks or springs can harbor any danger. On its migrations we have never heard it utter any distinctive note, and as it so closely resembles the Song Sparrow in appearance, it is not an easy bird to identify

during the brief hurried glance that it allows us, unless the conditions of light and situation are excellent. In general, however, it can often be told by the even and grayer cast of the back, lacking the more conspicuous longitudinal streaks of the former bird. Of course, when a clear view of the breast is obtained, with its ochraceous band, fine spotting high up on the breast, and the lack of the heart mark so conspicuous in nearly all plumages of the Song Sparrow, it is easily identified. September 20, 1906, Saunders took one bird from amongst some Song Sparrows in a brush pile in Gardner's yard.

136. *Melospiza georgiana*.—Swamp Sparrow.

Though a common breeder on the St. Clair Flats and an abundant and regular migrant locally in our territory about Detroit, our records for the species on the Point are few and not perfectly satisfactory. Keays lists two seen September 19, 1901. We have two not very convincing sight records, October 15, 1906, and June 1, 1907. Neither of these birds were seen well enough for us to be perfectly positive of our identification. We searched the marshes carefully for them September 10, 1905, the 19th, 1906, and October 15, 1906, but without avail. At the time of the latter date they should have been very common, as we find great hosts of them in such places at this date about Detroit.

137. *Passerilla iliaca*.—Fox Sparrow.

On but one occasion have our visits fallen within the dates of the migrations of the species. October 14-15, 1906, several were seen. At least seven the first day and one the next.

138. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.—Towhee.

Not very common during spring dates. Very few seen May 13-14, 1905, and but moderately common the 20th and 21st, and 30th and 31st of the same month of the two succeeding years. Quite common the first half of September and one seen as late as October 29, 1905. In 1906 but one was seen the first three days of September, and but two from the 15th to the 22d, but October 14-15 it was common. From August 24 to September 6, 1907, from one to fifteen were seen every day. Our earliest spring date is March 9, 1907, when one was taken in the still snow-filled woods. We were inclined to regard this as a wintering bird, but as the next week there were several to be seen about Detroit, it is not at all clear that it was not an early migrant. Our latest date is October 20, 1905.

139. *Cardinalis cardinalis*.—Cardinal.

Point Pelee and its vicinity boasts of being the only locality in the Dominion of Canada where the Cardinal is regular and common. The status of this species has been dwelt upon at some length in the Auk, XXIV, 1907, p. 146, by the authors and the data therein giv-

en seems to indicate that half a century ago the species was more or less common in Southeastern Michigan, but since then has retreated from its range and is only now resuming it. The history of the Point Pelee observations point in the same direction. Dr. Brodie says, "I visited Point Pelee July, 1879. . . . I formed a speaking acquaintance with several people and all had a story to tell about a 'visitation of war-birds' a few weeks previously. From descriptions given there was no doubt these 'war-birds' were Cardinals. . . . From diligent inquiries it appeared the birds were not rare summer visitors, but this season they were unusually numerous. I heard nothing that suggested the presence of females, the birds were all red."

Saunders made his first ornithological visit to the Point in late August and early September, 1882, and another in May and June of 1884, and again in September of 1900. In none of these did he discover any Cardinals. It was not until the next year, in September, when Keays visited the Point that the bird was again brought to notice. See Auk, XIX, 1902, p. 205. On that occasion the residents said that it had put in an appearance on the Point about four years previous. This last statement has since been corroborated in a certain degree by Gardner, who states that his acquaintance with the Cardinal has only been of a few years' duration; that he does not remember it as a boy, but that since some had been caught and caged by a woman on the Point, he has known the species very well and does not think that he could have overlooked it if, in the past, it had been as common as it is now. It is strange that so showy and loud whistling a bird could have been overlooked by so acute an observer as Saunders, if at the time of his visits it was as numerous as it now is, more especially as one of the visits was made in late spring before the song period had quite passed. The spring of 1907 he and Taverner were on the Point at this time and then Cardinals whistled from every hand. The evidence certainly points to the conclusion that the Cardinal occupied the Point until at least 1879, and then for a space, until about 1901, deserted the locality to a greater or less extent. It is quite common now and it would be impossible for any field naturalist to visit the Point without making its acquaintance. On all our spring visits it has been seen perched on some isolated cedar top in the warm sunshine, whistling loud and long and making patches of intense red against the dark background. They appear to be pretty well distributed over the Point, from the base to its extreme end.

In the fall they are more difficult to find. They then frequent the densest tangles in little flocks which seem to be original broods, for there are usually one or two adults and three or four juvenile birds in the company. They are intensely curious and skulk about just out of sight, uttering little clicks and cheeps that seem ridiculous from so large a bird with such fine vocal powers. We have found

them common on all visits, and without doubt they winter on the Point. March 9-10, 1907, they were in full song.

140. **Zamelodia ludoviciana*.—Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was fairly common May 14, 1905, but was not seen at all May 20-21, 1906, and but two from May 30 to June 1, 1907. We have met it but once in the fall. From September 18 to 21, from one to seven were noted each day. They were very difficult to find, keeping well up in the tops of the high trees and hidden in the leaves, and the only indication of their presence was the sharp grosbeak click that occasionally came to us from somewhere overhead. Even after hearing one it was most difficult to locate it and we spent hours in the aggregate, standing under the large walnut trees, with our necks bent back, staring into the foliage, trying to locate from which quarter the sounds came. It was only in the early morning that any were noted at all. In short, this fall it was noted that, though from sunrise for a few hours certain parts of the woods would be filled with warblers and other birds, later in the day there would hardly be one in sight or to be found, and it always remained a mystery where so many birds could spend so many hours of the day without their presence being detected.

132. **Cyanospiza cyanea*.—Indigo Bunting.

Common on nearly all our visits, October 29, 1905, and March 9-10, 1907, being the only dates when we failed to note them. October 14, 1906, three late birds were seen, and a juvenile with nestling down still plentifully attached to the feathers, was taken.

133. **Spiza americana*.—Dickcissel.

The Dickcissel is another bird that, after extending its range into Southeastern Michigan, retreated again. Its history at the Point closely parallels its career in Michigan, at least as far as its recession is concerned. Personally we have not met it on Pelee, though we have looked closely for it. Saunders reports that it was common enough in 1884, and says of it,—Auk II, 307,—“June 1, 1884. W. L. Bailey, Mr. A. P. Saunders and W. E. Saunders found several Black-throated Buntings about two miles from the end of Point Pelee in a meadow—first Canadian record. Subsequently, in extending our search, we found one or more pairs in every field. . . . These birds were observed in every locality on the Point, and on the return drive they were heard constantly till we had gone three miles into the mainland and then no more were noted.” Saunders also informs us that he met them again September 10, 1900, and says, “We saw five Dickcissels, but did not secure any. They were in the weed fields on the dry side of the east and west ditch and perhaps half a mile from it.” The next fall, 1901, Keays did not note the bird, nor has it been seen on the Point since.